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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
**Stefan REH et al.**

Serial No.: **09/944,157**

Filed: **September 4, 2001**

For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR FORMING  
A TEAR LINE IN AN AIRBAG COVER,  
AND THE COVER THEREOF**

Group Art Unit: **3611**

Examiner: **Unknown**

Docket No.: **076326/0194**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 56, 97, and 98, enclosed is a modified Form PTO-1449, listing twenty-three (23) references. Copies of the listed reference are enclosed.

The submission of this IDS is not intended as an admission that the references identified here constitute prior art against the claims of the present application or that such references are material to patentability as defined in Rule 56(b). Further, applicant does not waive any right to take an action appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any non-§102(b) reference applied against any claim of this application.

**RELEVANCE**

An English abstract translation of relevant portions of the foreign references are as follows:

EP 646 499 B1	DASH-BOARD IN A MOTOR CAR CORRESPONDS TO US PATENT 5,487,558
EP 749 872 A2	AIR BAG COVER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD SAME CORRESPONDS TO U.S. PATENT 5,698,283

DE 44 09 405 A1      CORRESPONDS TO BRITISH PATENT 2,276,354

DE 195 16 230 A1      CORRESPONDS TO EP 741 062 A2

WO 97 03866           PLASTICS COVERING FOR VEHICLE WITH AIRBAGS  
AND METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING SAID  
COVERING

DE 298 13 528 U1      WORKPIECE SUPPORTING SURFACE FOR A CUTTING  
DEVICE

A cutter, especially for creating deliberate weak lines in plastic skins, films or similar material, has a sintered metal plate (3) acting as an air permeable supporting for the plastic skin. The cutter blade (10) is moved at a constant distance to the sintered metal plate (3).

DE 44 24 686 A1      AIRBAG COVER

A plastic cover (2) for an airbag is provided with a mechanical line (7) of weakness which has an end section having a curved shape (18 20). The curved part of the breaking line extends through an angle of at least 90 DEG, and preferably 180 DEG, and has a radius of curvature of 1 cm or less. The curved end of the breaking line prevents the tearing action which occurs along the breaking line from being extended beyond the end of the breaking line.

DE 296 09 801 U1      AIRBAG SYSTEM  
CORRESPONDS TO US PATENT 6,224,090

EP 741 062 A2           AIRBAG COVER AND METHOD FOR ITS PRODUCTION

An air bag cover comprises: (a) a moulding (5) which covers the air bag operating units and the air bag impact cushion, the moulding having threshold breakage points (2) which break open when the air bag is actuated, allowing the cushioning unit out; where: (i) the moulding has a cover (4), which has areas of reduced thickness (1) near the threshold breakage points (2).

DE 297 20 138 U1      AIRBAG SYSTEM  
CORRESPONDS TO U.S. PATENT 6,199,897

The absence of a complete English translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted non-English reference (Rule 98 and MPEP §609).

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

Applicants respectfully request to have the listed reference be considered by the examiner, be formally made of record in the present application, and have the initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 returned to the applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 15, 2001

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